



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, From
'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

CRYPTANTHA FENDLERI **FENDLER CAT'S-EYE**

Fendler Cat's-eye is an annual with simple or branched stems that are 5-20 cm high. The alternate, narrow, strap shaped leaves may be up to 3 cm long; those at the base are usually brown by the time the plant is fruiting. Foliage is sparsely covered with spreading hairs. Tiny, white flowers are borne on coiled stalks that unwind and elongate as flowering progresses from the base upward. The corolla is ca. 1 mm high and has a small, united portion below and 5 spreading petals above. The calyx is covered with stiff, straight hairs and becomes 4-6 mm long in fruit. Within each fruiting calyx are 4 smooth, shiny, narrowly lance-shaped nutlets that are ca. 1.5 mm long and 1/3 as wide; 1 or more of these may be missing. Flowering in May-early July.

Annual species of *CRYPTANTHA* are distinguished by characters of the seeds. *C. FENDLERI* is distinguished by having 4 smooth, shiny nutlets that are lance-shaped and 1/3 as wide as they are long. A hand lens or microscope are needed for positive identification.